

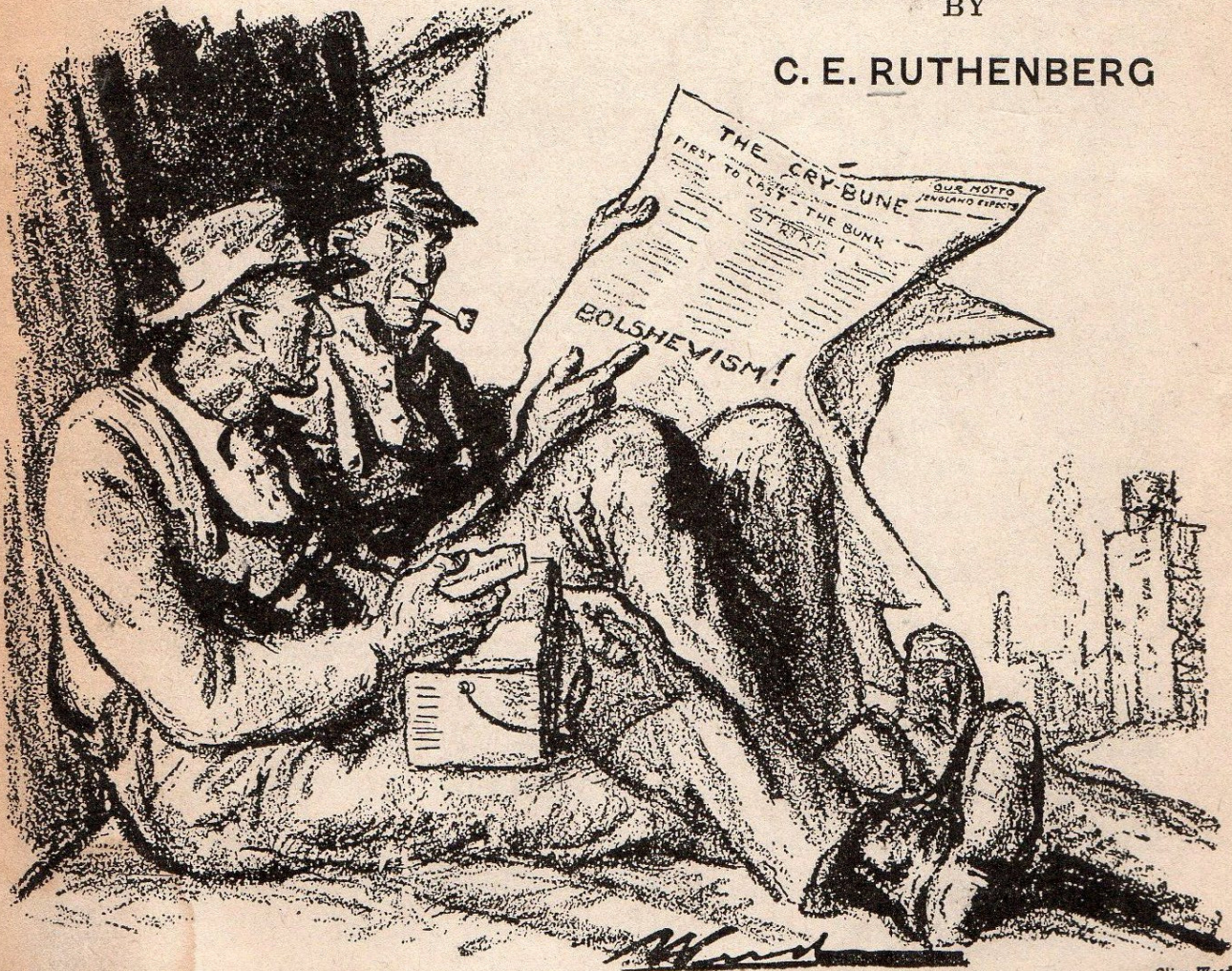
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The Workers [Communist] Party

WHAT IT STANDS FOR
WHY WORKERS SHOULD JOIN

BY

C. E. RUTHENBERG



Clive Wood.

"I know what this Bolshevism means, Bill—it means us."

The Workers [Communist] Party

WHAT IT STANDS FOR WHY WORKERS SHOULD JOIN

By C. E. Ruthenberg, General Secretary
Workers (Communist) Party

THE CLASS STRUG- GLE

Every worker knows that there is a fight going on between the workers and the capitalist bosses who own the factories, mills, mines and railroads. He knows that the capitalist boss wants to pay low wages, that he wants the workers to work long hours, and to work under the severest working conditions they can endure. He knows that he must fight the capitalist boss in order to secure higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions and a higher standard of life for himself and his family.

This struggle is not only a fight of each worker against his boss, or the workers of one factory against the boss, or the workers in one industry against the bosses. It is a fight between the workers as a class against the capitalist class—a class struggle.

The capitalist bosses as a class have one kind of interest in industry. They want greater and greater profits so they can build up big fortunes for themselves—become millionaires, multi-millionaires and even billionaires like Rockefeller, Ford and Morgan. The workers through their labor produce the wealth. The capitalist bosses can only profit by exploiting the workers. The less they pay the workers in comparison to what the workers produce the greater the profits of the capitalists.

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The workers as a class want a higher standard of life. They can only secure it through forcing the capitalists to pay higher wages, to grant shorter hours and better working conditions. The workers, as a class, have a different interest than those of the capitalist bosses.

The results of this conflict of interest can be seen on all sides in this country in the strikes, lockouts, boycotts. Miners, steel workers, railroad workers, textile workers, garment workers, workers of every industry are continually forced to go on strike in order to secure better conditions of life.

THE TRUSTS IN INDUSTRY

The development of trusts—that is, the consolidation of industry in the hands of big corporations or combinations of corporations—intensifies the struggle between the workers and the capitalists.

In place of a few hundreds or a few thousands of workers being affected by a strike, tens of thousands and even hundreds of thousands are involved in each struggle. The strike of the 400,000 steel workers, the strikes of 1919 and 1922 of 500,000 coal miners, the strike of the 400,000 railway shopmen in 1922, show that greater and greater numbers of workers become involved in common fights against the capitalists.

The strike of the million coal miners in Great Britain supported by a general strike of all the organized workers shows the further development of the struggle between the workers and their bosses into a class struggle of the whole working class against the capitalist class.

THE FARMERS AND THE CAPITALISTS

The farmers as well as the workers are exploited by the capitalist class. The capitalists own the means of transportation and the marketing organizations through which the farmers must sell their products. The capitalists control the banking institutions and credit



CHILD LABOR

organizations to which the farmers must resort. Through these means the capitalists levy tribute upon the farmers. The farmers are the natural allies of the workers in their struggle against the capitalists because they are FIGHTING A COMMON ENEMY.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WORKERS' STRUGGLES

Just as every worker knows that there is a class struggle between the workers and capitalists, he also knows the part which the government plays in that struggle.

In every strike the government is on the side of the capitalists. It uses injunctions, courts, police and soldiers to help the capitalists beat the workers—to prevent the workers from winning their fight against the capitalists.

It makes laws to strengthen the capitalists and weaken the workers in the class struggle. This is true whether the Republican Party or Democratic Party is in power.

We are told by the supporters of the capitalists that we have "a government of the people, for the people and by the people." Every worker who thinks at all knows that this is not true. We have "a government of the capitalists, for the capitalists and by the capitalists." The two old parties are controlled by the capitalists. Although the workers are permitted to go through the form of voting, it is the capitalists who control the parties, decide who the candidates shall be, and control their actions after they are elected. When necessary the capitalists simply buy the elections.

Because the government supports, upholds and strengthens the capitalists in their fight against the workers and helps the capitalists to make the workers submit to low wages, long hours and bad working conditions, the workers' struggle is not only a struggle against the capitalist class but also against the capitalist government.

The British workers, in the general strike, found that the enemy they were fighting was the government of Great Britain. They could not win their fight without a revolution through which they would set up a government of the workers.

This development of the struggles of the workers makes certain that the final form of that struggle will be a revolutionary struggle for control of the governmental power.

THE BREAK-DOWN OF CAPITALISM

The coming of such a revolutionary struggle between the workers and capitalists is hastened by the forces of destruction which are at work within the capitalist system of production.

Each highly developed capitalist country must fight

for colonies, spheres of influences, mandates, etc., in the undeveloped parts of the world. It must carry on a struggle for world markets. It must find fields for new investments. In this way it comes in conflict with other capitalist countries. The world war grew out of such conflicts between capitalist countries.

During the world war the system of production in Europe, as well as its financial system, was undermined. The European capitalist countries are unable to produce as much as they did before the war. This sharpens the struggle between the workers and the capitalists because the capitalists try to put the losses on the backs of the workers and make them accept a lower standard of life. None of the European countries have been able to overcome the forces of destruction of capitalism let loose by the war.



"DEMOCRACY"—BUT MONEY TALKS!

While the United States was not affected the same way because it was not so deeply involved in the war and made great profits out of it during the first two and a half years of the war, it has become the greatest imperialist country and is exploiting all parts of the world. This development of American imperialism will lead to new wars which will let loose upon American capitalism the same forces that are destroying capitalism in Europe.

THE WORKERS' GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALIZED INDUSTRY

The government which will be established as the result of the revolutionary struggles of the workers must be a Workers' and Farmers' Government—that is, it must be a government which will use its powers against the capitalists just as the capitalists now use the power of the government against the workers.

The experiences of the Russian workers and peasants, as well as the revolutionary struggles in Hungary and Germany, have shown that the form of the Workers' and Farmers' Government is that of a Soviet Government. Also the British General Strike showed the beginning of such a government. The workers and farmers create the new government on the basis of their own organizations, through delegates sent to local, state and national councils (which are the Soviets), through which the capitalists' power is broken.

The principles which must guide the Workers' and Farmers' Government in building the new social system are indicated in the form of modern industry, which the workers must use in order to live. The great corporations and trusts have created a system of production in which tens and hundreds of thousands of workers cooperate to produce wealth. The Workers' and Farmers' Government will socialize these industries—that is, it will take them out of the hands of the capitalists and make them



CAPITALISM: "Hey, there, you're taking one-sixth of the world!"
LABOR: "Yes, and I've only just begun!"

collective property of the people. The workers and peasants of Russia, which represents one-sixth of the world, are now creating this new social system based upon common ownership of industry.

It is only through the socializing of industry, through the power of the Workers' and Farmers' Government that the class struggle which today is tearing apart capitalist society can be ended, that the untold suffering and misery which results therefrom for the workers can be abolished, and industry made the basis for creating a higher standard of life for those who are producing the wealth of this country. This is the ideal which the Communist society will realize.

**THE WORKERS
(COMMUNIST)
PARTY AND THE
CLASS STRUGGLE**

The Workers (Communist) Party is organized upon the basis of this analysis of the capitalist system and the class struggle.

In the Workers (Communist) Party are organized those workers who understand the character of the struggle which the workers are fighting, and who are ready to unite their strength to give leadership to that struggle and to direct it along the road that will carry the workers forward to the Workers' and Farmers' Government and victory for the new social order.

In our country the class struggle has not yet developed to that sharp form which places the workers before the revolutionary struggle for power. The Workers (Communist) Party therefore has formulated policies for the immediate struggles for partial demands which will build up the power of the workers and prepare them for the REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE.

To achieve this end, the Workers (Communist) Party declares itself in favor of the following policies:

**SUPPORT OF THE
WORKERS' AND
FARMERS' STRUG-
GLES**

The Workers (Communist) Party supports and participates actively in every struggle of the workers and farmers against the capitalist class.

The Workers (Communist) Party enters into every fight which the workers make for higher wages, better working conditions, better conditions of labor. It endeavors to give leadership to these struggles, broaden them by bringing other workers to the support of those engaged in the struggle.

The Workers (Communist) Party fights with the farmers in their effort to secure relief from the unbearable conditions to which the capitalists are subjecting them.

It is through these struggles for their partial demands that the workers and farmers learn the nature of the capitalist system, the part which the government is playing in the struggle and the necessity of organizing their power for the fight against the capitalist class and the capitalist government.

**MAKE THE UNIONS
MILITANT FIGHTING
ORGANIZATIONS**

The Workers (Communist) Party supports all genuine labor unions and endeavors to strengthen them through urging the workers to join them.

At the same time it carries on a struggle within the existing unions to transform them into militant fighting organizations for the workers' interests and to amalgamate the trade unions into powerful industrial unions which can more effectively fight the workers' battles against the great trusts and corporations which today control industry.

**ORGANIZE THE UN-
ORGANIZED**

But today in the United States there are only four million workers organized in the trade unions, while fifteen million industrial workers and many agricultural and other workers are outside of the trade unions, in the ranks of the unorganized. The organization of the great mass of unorganized workers in the basic industries of this country into labor unions is one of the big problems before the working class.

The Workers (Communist) Party will carry on a persistent campaign for the organization of these workers. It will raise this question inside of the existing labor unions and at the same time carry on a direct campaign for the organization of the workers where no organizations now exist.

The organization of the workers in the steel industry, the metal-mining and smelting industry, the automobile industry, the great manufacturing industry, the textile in-

dustry, the rubber industry and the strengthening of the existing unions in other industries must be achieved in order to place the workers in a position to make their strength effective against the capitalists in their struggle for a higher standard of life.

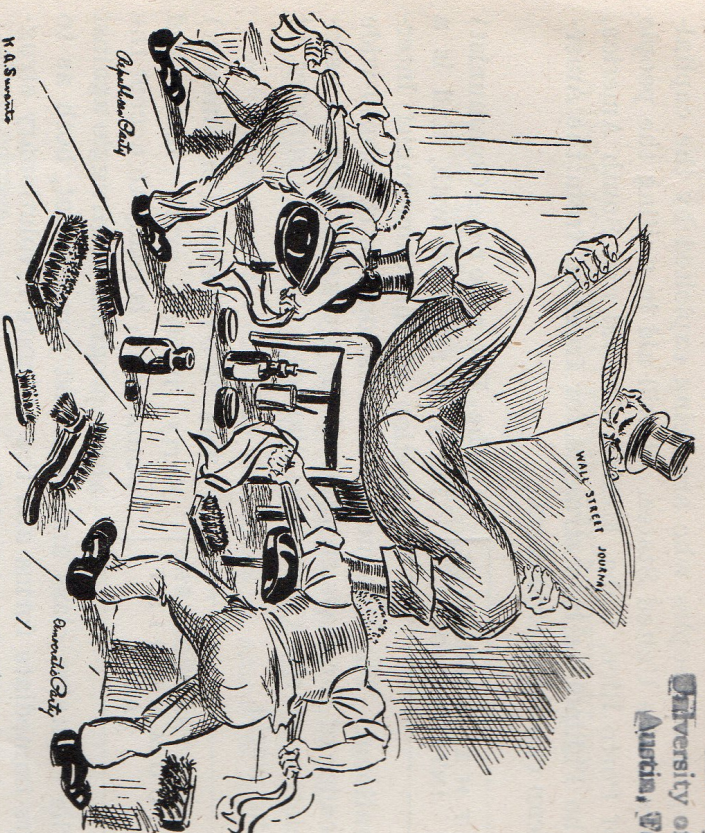
THE ORGANIZATION OF A LABOR PARTY

The workers and farmers of this country still, to a large degree, are supporting the political parties of the capitalist class—the Republican and Democratic parties.

The next step in developing the class consciousness of the workers is the organization of a mass labor party of the workers who, in alliance with the farmers, will carry on a struggle against the capitalist parties in the workers' interests.

To achieve this end, the Workers (Communist) Party is actively carrying on a campaign for the formation of a Labor Party (in some states, a Farmer-Labor Party exists which the Workers (Communist) Party supports). Such a party should unite all existing workers' organizations, trade unions, workers' political parties, workers' fraternal organizations and co-operatives and should be formed by the calling of conferences of delegates from these organizations.

The Workers (Communist) Party supports the formation of local and state labor parties with the view of eventually crystallizing a national labor party. While the labor party will fight for the immediate political interests of the workers, there must be an organization of those workers who are fully conscious of the nature of the struggle against the capitalist class and capitalist government, and who are prepared to carry the struggle forward to its final victory. The organization of these workers is the Workers (Communist) Party. The Workers (Communist) Party will affiliate with the labor party, maintaining at the same



BOTH IN THE SAME SERVICE!

time its right to carry on its work in support of its full Communist program as outlined in this statement.

FIGHT FOR THE NEGRO WORKERS AND AGAINST IMPERIALISM

The Negroes are not only a part of the most bitterly exploited section of the working class, but they are in addition, oppressed as a race.

The Workers (Communist) Party supports the organization of the Negroes for their fight against exploitation as a part of the working class and against the special discrimination to which they are subjected. It demands complete social equality for the Negro.

The Workers (Communist) Party will aid in organizing the struggle against American imperialism by the

oppressed peoples who are being exploited by the capitalists of the United States. It will aid in uniting the people of Porto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines in a struggle for freedom from the American capitalist exploiters.

**THE COMMUNIST
INTERNATIONAL**

The Workers (Communist) Party is affiliated with, and is a section of the Communist International. The Communist International is the world-wide leader of the class struggle of the workers. It is an association of the Communist Parties of all the countries of the world.

**JOIN THE WORKERS
(COMMUNIST)
PARTY**

The Workers (Communist) Party invites every man and woman who is ready to accept the above program of struggle against the capitalist class and capitalist government, both as to its immediate forms and the ultimate revolutionary struggle for a Workers' and Farmers' government to join the Workers (Communist) Party.

An application blank for membership is printed on the last page. Every member of the Workers (Communist) Party must agree to participate actively in the work of the party. The dues are fifty cents per month and there is an initiation fee of fifty cents which should be sent with the application.

It is only through building a powerful Communist party which can unite and lead all phases of the struggles of the workers and farmers that the victory of the Workers' and Farmers' Government can be won and the Communist society established.

EVERY MAN AND WOMAN WHO IS READY TO
HELP BUILD SUCH A PARTY SHOULD JOIN THE
WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY.

(Cut or tear off here)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in

The Workers (Communist) Party

The undersigned declares his adherence to the principles and tactics of the Workers (Communist) Party as expressed in its program and constitution and agrees to submit to the discipline of the Party and engage actively in its work.

Signature of Applicant

Street Address

City State

What labor union (if any) are you a member of?

.....

Note: Initiation fee of 50 cents and one month's dues, 50 cents, must accompany application for membership.

Take this application to the meeting place of the local organization of the Workers (Communist) Party or mail to the National Office.

WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY

Room 301, 1113 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

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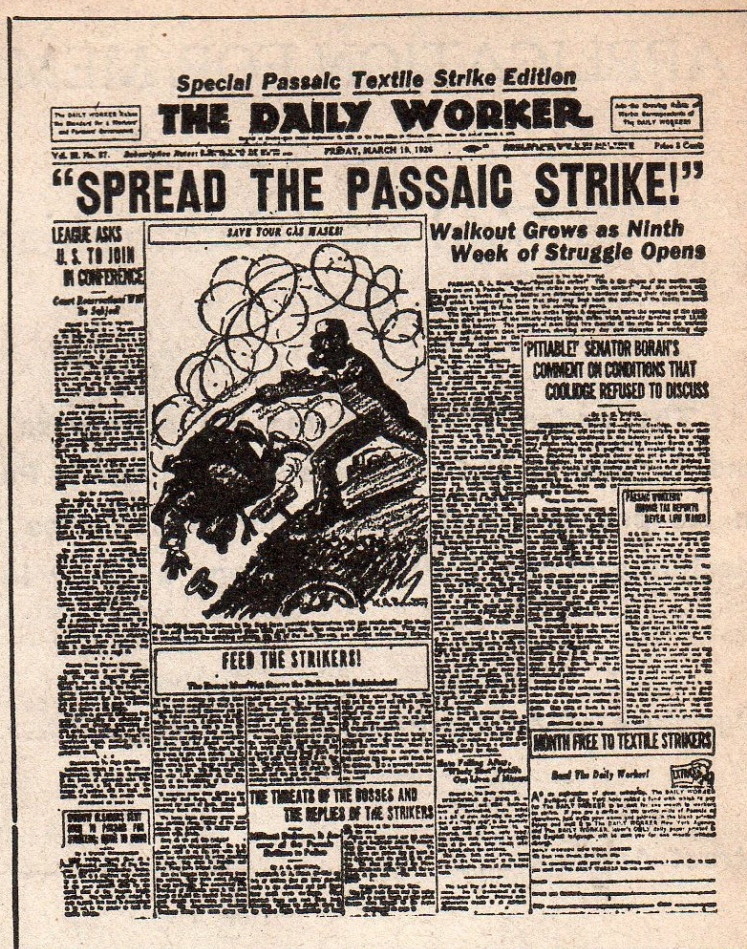
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always in the
front line of
every struggle
of Labor.

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